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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Gilles BASSON et al
Group Art Unit: Unknown
Appl. No. : 10/031,318
(U.S. National Phase of PCT/FR01/01554)
Examiner: Unknown
Filed : January 18, 2002
(I.A. Filed May 21, 2001)
For : PROTECTIVE HELMET AND MEANS FOR CONNECTING
ACCESSORY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Prior to examination of the application and calculation of filing fees, please enter the following amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 5 and 8-10 as follows (for the Examiner's convenience, a clean copy of all pending claims is being reproduced below, with amended claims 5 and 8-10 being so labeled, and a marked-up version of the amended claims being submitted in an Appendix attached at the end of this Amendment):

CLAIMS

1. Protective helmet (1) including a main outer shell with a generally vertical plane of symmetry (P) on which an accessory, such as a clear or tinted visor (8") or a support structure (8, 8') for optronic equipment such as a night-vision device (9), can be fixed, characterized in that it includes connecting and locking means enabling the user to fix one or the other of the accessories to said helmet.

2. Protective helmet (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the connecting and locking means are arranged on both sides of the shell (2), and are constituted by a hooking pin (15a, 15b) affixed to the shell (2) of the helmet and a hooking and locking piece (15a, 16b) affixed to the accessory (8).

3. Protective helmet (1) according to claim 2, characterized in that each of the pins (15a, 15b) extends outwardly on both sides of the corresponding lateral wall (9a, 9b) of the shell along a transverse axis XX'.

4. Protective helmet (1) according to claim 3, characterized in that each of the pins is cylindrical and includes a hooking groove (150a, 150b) adapted to cooperate with the corresponding hooking piece of the supporting wall.

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5. (Amended) Protective helmet (1) according to claim 2, characterized in that said hooking and locking piece (16a, 16b) is constituted by a metallic bar (17) affixed to the accessory (8, 8', 8'') of the helmet and includes a pivotally movable lock (19) biased by an elastic system such as a torsional spring (20).

6. Protective helmet (1) according to claim 5, characterized in that the bar (17) includes a rearwardly open housing (18), whereas the lock (19) is constituted by a hook-shaped metallic piece journaled on said bar about a pivoting axis (21).

7. Protective helmet (1) according to claim 5, characterized in that the lock includes a rear locking projection (22) extending upwardly to form, together with the housing (18) of the bar (17), a hole (23) that is adapted to cooperate with the corresponding hooking pin (15a, 15b) of the shell.

8. (Amended) Protective helmet (1) according to claim 5, characterized in that the lock (19) is pivotally arranged on its corresponding bar (17) so as to be capable of pivoting downward along (R) against the action of the spring, and to be biased in upward abutment by this spring.

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9. (Amended) Protective helmet (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the support structure of the night-vision device (8) is constituted by a wall made of a composite material that has substantially the shape of a triangular sphere portion.

10. (Amended) Protective helmet (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that it includes an ocular protective screen (5) pivotally movable about a transverse axis XX' in relation to the shell (1) between two positions, i.e., between a lowered active position of use according to which it is arranged in front of the user's eyes, and a raised inactive position of non-use according to which it is raised so as to be in front of the frontal wall of the shell, said screen (5) being guided in the center of the helmet by a guiding and locking carriage (50) moving in a central slide (51).

11. Protective helmet (1) according to claim 9, characterized in that the wall (80) of the support structure (8) is arranged at the level of the upper front wall portion (6) of the shell, beyond and at a certain distance from the latter so as to leave a space (e) enabling the protective screen (6) to move with its guiding carriage (50), as visible more particularly in Figure 1a.

12. Protective helmet (1) according to claim 11, characterized in that the wall

[illegible]

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Remarks

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination of the application and calculation of filing fees. This Amendment is being filed in order to remove multiple claim dependencies.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to refund excess fees and charge any fees necessary for the consideration of this preliminary amendment to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Appendix

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APPENDIX

CLAIMS

5. (Amended) Protective helmet (1) according to [any of claims 2-4] claim 2, characterized in that said hooking and locking piece (16a, 16b) is constituted by a metallic bar (17) affixed to the accessory (8, 8', 8'') of the helmet and includes a pivotally movable lock (19) biased by an elastic system such as a torsional spring (20).

8. (Amended) Protective helmet (1) according to [any of claims 5-7] claim 5, characterized in that the lock (19) is pivotally arranged on its corresponding bar (17) so as to be capable of pivoting downward along (R) against the action of the spring, and to be biased in upward abutment by this spring.

9. (Amended) Protective helmet (1) according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the support structure of the night-vision device (8) is constituted by a wall made of a composite material that has substantially the shape of a triangular sphere portion.

10. (Amended) Protective helmet (1) according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that it includes an ocular protective screen (5) pivotally movable about a transverse axis XX' in relation to the shell (1) between two positions, i.e., between a lowered active position of use according to which it is arranged in front of the user's eyes, and a raised inactive position of non-use according to which it is raised so as to be in front of the frontal wall of the shell, said screen (5) being guided in the center of the helmet by a guiding and locking carriage (50) moving in a central slide (51).